

SENATOR HILLMAN: Okay, thank you. Well I did not have it printed simply because it was a bill and felt that you could easily turn to it in your bill book and it would just require a lot of time and space to print it, and so what this bill was was formerly LB 238 and if you will turn to your bill book there are two changes in this bill. One is on page 14 where there is some language that is stricken and the other one is on page 21. So it really would be rather simple for you to be able to see what the changes are in the bill. What the bill does is it addresses towing a trailer and it was brought to me and at the request of one of my constituents who had a relative who was involved in a fatal accident outside of Columbus. Currently in the statute there is what is defined as cabin trailers and there is two classification of cabin trailers, travel and camping and only travel was included in the towing rules. LB 238, or now the amendment to this bill, includes travel and camping in these towing regulations. Current statute also requires that brakes and chains on travel trailers and on recreation trailers. Now under LB 238 it would require brakes on cabin and recreation towing vehicles and also require change then on cabin recreation and utility trailers. Now that's kind of difficult to follow and maybe to reinsure you about what is in the bill, number one, it was voted out of Transportation Committee 8, there was no dissenting votes and the State Patrol also worked with us on the bill and I would like to very quickly run through some testimony that the State Patrol had given that might also give you a little more confidence in the bill. Examination of statute, this particular statute revealed only a small group of trailers is required to have safety chains in Nebraska. In further research I found that all commercially manufactured horse trailers, boat trailers and camper trailers are equipped with and sold with safety chains. One dealer related an experience where his company sold a new utility trailer and allowed the purchaser to hitch up the trailer himself after which the purchaser drove from the lot here in Lincoln. Within six blocks of the dealership the trailer came unhooked from the towing vehicle, then passed the towing vehicle and collided with an oncoming vehicle. Luckily there were no serious injuries. Safety chains had not been hooked up. A dangerous situation was thereby created and still no traffic violation occurred. That dealership now hooks up all trailers that they sell ensuring the safety chains are connected. Similar incidents occur with surprising frequency. The fatal accident...and at this point he refers to the one that I was contacted about, the fatal accident